



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Presentation at the UCI Tri-Annual Meeting
March 15, 2012

John Yorks, City of Hampton

The Urban Construction Initiative



Workgroup Committee Members

- Jeanette Janiczek, City of Charlottesville
- Angela Tucker, City of Charlottesville
- Lamont Benjamin, City of Richmond
- Greg Tkac, Town of Dumfries
- Drew Williams, City of Harrisonburg
- James Baker, City of Harrisonburg
- Lynn Allsbrook, City of Hampton
- John Yorks, City of Hampton
- David Jarman, City of Virginia Beach
- Phil Pullen, City of Virginia Beach
- Lorenzo Casanova, FHWA
- Iris Rodriguez, FHWA
- Thomas Slaughter, City of Newport News
- Dan Blackburn, City of Newport News
- Jacqueline Kassel, City of Newport News
- Jan Vaughan, VDOT, NOVA District
- Steve Rowan, VDOT, Hampton District
- Tracy Elliott, VDOT, Culpeper District
- Jennifer DeBruhl, VDOT LAD
- Russell Dudley, VDOT LAD
- Todd Halacy, VDOT LAD



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Nov 17, 2011 Discussion Points:

- Workgroup Size
 - Ok for now, most localities have two representatives which can distort the numbers since only one may attend
- Meeting Frequency
 - Everyone is busy, but meeting once a month seemed to be ok to disseminate information and assign action items



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Nov 17, 2011 Discussion Points (con't):

➤ Focus Areas

- Workgroup needs to focus on areas where it can influence change
- VDOT will continue to work on internal challenges
- Workgroup needs to prioritize goals



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Dec 12, 2011 Discussion Points:

➤ Purpose & Process

- Discussed purpose of the UCI Workgroup and the process we use to achieve that purpose
 - Focus on efficient project delivery
 - Focus on improving and streamlining processes
 - Focus on working with VDOT to implement process improvements from LAD (top down) and localities (bottom up)
 - Focus on prioritizing a list of achievable and meaningful objectives each year—some issues will be beyond the scope of the workgroup
 - Help create solutions, not just problems



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Dec 12, 2011 Discussion Points:

- Performance Measures
 - How do we measure success for UCI participants?
 - Scope, schedule, budget are typical measures
 - Review timelines and responsiveness for VDOT and localities are areas of concerns
 - Work to reduce risk for both VDOT and Localities



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

Dec 12, 2011 Discussion Points:

- Performance Measures (con't)
 - What resources do localities need to be successful?
 - LAP Manual is a good online resource
 - Access to information
 - Knowledgeable UCI resources at VDOT District level
 - What tools are available to help?
 - PCES, iPM, possible use of Sharepoint sites
 - Localities need access to federal strategy obligation data
 - LAD is working with VITA to improve database access for localities



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

- Feb 13, 2012 Meeting
 - Meeting split into two separate groups
 1. Meeting for VDOT Members
 - Focused on developing a VDOT Project Review Timeline
 2. Meeting for Local Members
 - Focused on priorities and issues



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

➤ Focus Areas (Feb 13, 2012 Meeting)

Issue: Change Order review and approval time for Federal Oversight Projects is excessive

Goal: Reduce risk for localities & provide timely approval for CO's

Possible Solutions:

- Work with FHWA/VDOT to understand required steps in review and the approval process.
- Develop a streamlined process for FHWA/ VDOT approval for UCI localities.



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

➤ Focus Areas (Feb 13, 2012 Meeting)

Issue: Consistency in administering UCI program

Goal: Provide consistent administration and direction for VDOT staff and UCI localities.

Possible Solutions:

- Create a UCI District similar to other districts to house disciplinary experts who can assist localities with consistent feedback.
- Designate disciplinary experts within existing districts that will be used as resource for UCI localities. (e.g. Environmental—Hampton Roads, Right-of-Way—Richmond, Utilities—Culpeper, etc).
- Designate UCI expert(s) within each district who meet regularly and discuss specific concerns, procedures, best practices for UCI participants.



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

➤ Focus Areas (Feb 13, 2012 Meeting)

Issue: Timely execution of project administration agreements (PAA).

- Goal: Develop a process so localities can maximize project delivery timeline and not wait on PAA's.
- Possible Solutions:
 - Review and understand VDOT process for executing PAA's. Work with VDOT to find process improvements for UCI participants.
 - Allow localities to start work after SYIP is approved (July 1). Assuming project costs do not exceed the approved amount in the SYIP. PAA can follow later



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

➤ Focus Areas (Feb 13, 2012 Meeting)

Issue: Pre-award evaluations and re-reviews can take up to 90 days

- Goal: Provide an accelerated review so localities do not lose valuable project delivery time waiting on pre-award evaluations.
- Possible Solutions:
 - Allow UCI localities to designate a qualified department (or persons) who can perform the pre-award evaluation duties at the local level. The results can be sent to VDOT for concurrence, while the locality proceeds with processing the contract or work order.
 - Allow UCI localities to contract with qualified accounting firms to provide pre-award evaluation services. The results can be sent to VDOT for concurrence, while the locality proceeds with processing the contract or work order.



Urban Construction Initiative Workgroup Update

➤ Focus Areas (Feb 13, 2012 Meeting)

Issue: Street lighting on state/federally funded projects is required to meet RP-8 lighting standards

- Goal: Reduce long term operating (energy) costs for local governments.
- Possible Solutions:
 - Determine if RP-8 lighting standards are mandated by the state or FHWA.
 - Change legislation to allow localities that maintain their own roadways and have approved (by an elected body) lighting standards to be reimbursed for design and installation costs on federally funded projects.



Next steps/Other topics for discussion

- The UCI Workgroup will reconvene in April
- April UCI Workgroup Topics Include:
 - ❑ Review the draft VDOT Project Review Timeline
 - ❑ Discuss the focus areas from the February 13th UCI Workgroup Meeting and develop work plans
 - ❑ Plan technical session for the July Annual UCI Meeting
 - ❑ Discuss any follow up actions from today's UCI Tri-Annual Meeting for the July Annual UCI Meeting



Questions?





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